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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,868	01/15/2004	Masashi Fujikawa	MM4658	8425

7590 01/07/2008
ANDERSON KILL & OLICK P.C.
1251 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

EXAMINER	
WORKU, NEGUSSIE	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
01/07/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/759,868	Applicant(s) FUJIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner Negussie Worku	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 January 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See Attachment</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a replay to the application filed on January 15, 2004, in which, claims 1-13, are pending. Claim 1 is independent, and claims 2-13 are dependent.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 01/15/04 and 08/26/04 has been reviewed. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5 and 10-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukamoto (USP 5,563,699).

With regard to claim 1, Tsukamoto (699) discloses a data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1) for reading and/or scanning data from a first and second scanned medium (a copier 1, comprises document feeder unit 2 for feeding and scanning plurality of medium, col.2, lines 50-65, first medium the first document being feed to be scanned, and the second medium that follows the first document) comprising: first transportation rollers (front transporting rollers [as first] 4, 4a, 4b of fig 1 and 2) for conveying said first scanned medium (the first document to be feed for scanning), along a first transportation path (40 upper straight path 40 of fig 1 and 2) having an inlet end and an exit (document insertion portion 30 of fig 1 or 1, and rear end path 60b of fig 1 or 2, col.3, lines 1-15);

second transportation rollers (rear transportation rollers 5, 5a and 5b of fig 1 or 2) for conveying said second scanned medium along a second transportation path (lower straight path 60, col.3, lines 5-10) having an inlet end separate from the inlet end of the first transportation path (the insertion 30 of fig 1 or 2, is separate from end path 60b of fig 1 and 2, col.3, lines 1-15); and

a data reader (copier 1 of fig 1 or 2), comprises image or data reader CCD sensor) for reading and/or scanning data from either the first or the second scanned medium respectively (as document moves to a document scanning point 'P' of fig 1, which is a contact glass 1a, copier 1 reads or scan data the first or the second

document respectively, col.4, lines 49-55), wherein the first transportation path (40 upper straight path 40 of fig 1 and 2) and the second transportation path (lower straight path 60 of fig 1, col.3, lines 5-10), have a common mutually shared middle transportation path (transportation path 60 of fig 1, includes rollers 10a and 10b) through which both the first scanned medium and the second scanned medium pass when being transported by said first and the second transportation rollers (40 upper straight transportation path 40 of fig 1 and 2,) with the data reader being disposed along said middle transportation path (copier 1 of fig 1, reads the document transported to the contact glass 1a, at the document scanned point "P" of fig 2 1 or 2, col.4, lines 49-55).

With respect to claims 2, Tsukamoto (699) teaches a data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1 and 2), wherein the first transportation path (transportation path 40 of fig 1 and 2) comprises: first straight transportation path, 40 upper straight path 40 of fig 1 and 2); first curved transportation path (curved turning path 50 of fig 1 and 2) connected between the first straight transportation (upper straight path 40 of fig 1 and 2) path and middle transportation path (middle transportation path with rollers 10a and 10b of fig 2) for changing the direction of transportation for the first scanned medium 90 degrees as seen from the first straight transportation path (as shown from the first transportation path 40, further to turning path 50 of fig 2, wherein the document direction is reversed to 90 degrees to opposite direction by position selector 6 or 8 of fig 2, on both inlet end of transportation device, as shown in fig 1 and 2)

a second curved transportation path (second curved turning path created by roller 4 of fig 1 and 2) connected to the middle transportation path (middle transportation path by rollers 10a and 10b of fig 1 and 2) for changing the direction of transportation for the first scanned medium another 90 degrees as seen from the middle transportation path (as shown from the first transportation path 40, further to turning path 50 of fig 2, wherein the document direction is reversed to 90 degrees to opposite direction by position selector 6 or 8 of fig 2, on both inlet end of transportation device, as shown in fig 1 and 2); and a second straight transportation path (lower transportation path by roller 10a and 10b, which is second transportation path) connected to the second curved transportation path (lower transportation path by roller 10a and 10b, which is second transportation path is connected by curved transportation path created by roller 4 of fig 1 and 2).

With respect to claim 3, Tsukamoto (699) teaches a data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1 and 2), wherein the second transportation path (lower transportation path with rollers 10a and 10b of fig 2), comprises: an insertion opening (insertion portion 60b of fig 1 and 2) for inserting the second scanned medium into the middle transportation path (through insertion rear end path 60b of fig 2, a medium inserted to the middle transportation path 60 by roller 5b toward contact glass 10a for the scanning as shown in fig 1); and a reversing transportation path connected to the middle transportation path for reversing the direction of transportation of the second scanned medium from the

direction through the insertion opening (lower turning path 6a of fig 1, reverse the document from the insertion opening 60b of fig 2).

With respect to claim 4, Tsukamoto (699) teaches data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1 and 2), wherein the first transportation path and the second transportation path each have a reference bottom with the reference bottom of the second transportation path being disposed at a height different from the height of the first transportation path reference bottom such that the transportation height of the first and second scanned medium is different when read by said data reader.

With respect to claim 5, Tsukamoto (699) teaches data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1 and 2), further comprising a guide (guide 8 or 6a of fig 2, for selection of direction of document movement) guiding the change in transportation direction of the first scanned medium along the second curved transportation path, (position selection 8 of fig 2, changes the moving direction of the document) with said guide being disposed at a height spaced from the reference bottom of the second transportation path (col.5 lines 40-45, col.6, lines 35-45).

With respect to claim 10, Tsukamoto teaches a data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1 and 2), wherein the data reader is an image scanning sensor for capturing an image of the first or the second scanned medium (copier 1 of fig 1 and 2,

includes image sensor for reading data on the document and to capture as seen in fig 1 and 2, col.4, lines 50-55).

With respect to claim 11, Tsukamoto teaches a data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1 and 2), wherein the data reader is magnetic sensor for reading magnetic data on the first or the second scanned medium (sensors 11, 12 and 13 correspond to the sensors in figs. 1-3b, for sensing documents when in position of the scanning system, as activation sensor based on document type, col.35-40).

With respect to claim 12, Tsukamoto teaches a data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1 and 2), wherein the first scanned medium is composed of a bendable material, and the second scanned medium is composed of a material composition difficult to bend (copier 1 of fig 1 and 2, can be used to scan a paper sheet (which is a bendable) using the sheet feeding mechanism such as rollers, if the document is difficult to bend impossible to feed through feed mechanism, then the scanner can be used by manually placing the document on the glass platen for further scanning also a material composed of difficult to bend such as driver license or cards made up of plastics).

With respect to claim 13, Tsukamoto teaches a data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1 and 2), comprising: a medium detector (sensor 13 of fig 2) disposed along the second transportation path (roller 10, 10b of fig 2) for detecting the leading edge and trailing edge of the second scanned medium respectively (sensor 11, 12 and

13 are for detecting the edge of the document, col.5, lines 55-65); wherein transportation of the second scanned medium is controlled according to a detection signal from the medium detector (the transportation of the scanned document is controlled according to the detection signal received from detection sensor 11, 12 and 13 of fig 2, col.5, 35-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 6-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsukamoto (USP 5,563,699), in view of Momose (USP 6290129).

With respect to claim 6, Tsukamoto (699) discloses the subject matter of claim 1, as described in claims 1 through 5. However, Tsukamoto (699) does not show or disclose a first pressure member disposed above the reference bottom of the second transportation path for pressing the first or the second scanned medium to the data reader; and second pressure member disposed below the reference bottom of the second transportation path for pressing the first scanned medium to the data reader.

Momose (129) in the same area of data recording and scanning apparatus (as shown in fig 1) teaches a first pressure member (pressure roller 1051 of fig 27)

disposed above the reference bottom of the second transportation path for pressing the first or the second scanned medium to the data reader (as shown in fig 27, and discussed in col.36, lines 40-50, upper pressure roller 1051, and roller 1032 moves up and down to press the document toward the scanning head 1052); and second pressure member) which is positioned below transportation path disposed below the reference bottom of the second transportation path for pressing the first scanned medium to the data reader, (roller 1032 of fig 27, having the same function as 1052 to press the document against print head 1041 of fig 27).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified imaging device of Tsukamoto (129) by providing the teaching of Momose (129) as discussed above for the purpose of providing a compact, low cost, information reading apparatus for recording media processing with improved operability, col.3, lines 14-19, as suggested by Momose (129).

With respect to claim 7, Tsukamoto teaches the subject matter of claim 1, as described in claims 1 through 5. However, Tsukamoto (699) does not disclose a data reading apparatus, wherein the lower pressure member is a dropping prevention member preventing the second scanned medium from dropping below the reference bottom of the second transportation path.

Momose (129) in the same area of data recording and scanning apparatus (as shown in fig 1) teaches a data reading apparatus, wherein the lower pressure member

is a dropping prevention member preventing the second scanned medium from dropping below the reference bottom of the second transportation path. (as shown in fig 27, and discussed in col.36, lines 40-50, upper pressure roller 1051, and roller 1032 moves up and down to press the document toward the scanning head 1052, wherein the lower pressure member is a dropping prevention member preventing the second scanned medium from dropping below the reference bottom of the second transportation path),

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified imaging device of Tsukamoto (699) by providing the teaching of Momose (129) as discussed above for the purpose of providing a compact, low cost, information reading apparatus for recording media processing with improved operability, col.3, lines 14-19, as suggested by Momose (129).

With respect to claim 8, Tsukamoto (699) discloses the subject matter of claim 1, as described in claims 1 through 5. However, Tsukamoto (699) dose not disclose a first pressure member disposed above the reference bottom of the second transportation path for pressing the first or the second scanned medium; and second pressure member disposed below the reference bottom of the second transportation path for pressing the first scanned medium.

Momose (129) in the same area of data recording and scanning apparatus (as shown in fig 1) teaches a first pressure member (pressure roller 1051 of fig 27)

disposed above the reference bottom of the second transportation path for pressing the first or the second scanned medium to the data reader (as shown in fig 27, and discussed in col.36, lines 40-50, upper pressure roller 1051, and roller 1032 moves up and down to press the document toward the scanning head 1052); and second pressure member) which is positioned below transportation path disposed below the reference bottom of the second transportation path for pressing the first scanned medium to the data reader, (roller 1032 of fig 27, having the same function as 1052 to press the document against print head 1041 of fig 27).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified imaging device of Tsukamoto (129) by providing the teaching of Momose (129), as discussed above for the purpose of providing a compact, low cost, information reading apparatus for recording media processing with improved operability, col.3, lines 14-19, as suggested by Momose (129).

With respect to claim 9, Tsukamoto teaches the subject matter of claim 1, as described in claims 1 through 5. However, Tsukamoto (699) dose not disclose a data reading apparatus comprising a print head disposed along the first transportation path for printing to the first scanned medium.

Momose (129) in the same area of data recording and scanning apparatus (as shown in fig 1) teaches a data reading apparatus (as shown in fig 1) comprising a print

head (1041 of fig 27) disposed along the first transportation path (document travel path 1006 of fig 27) for printing to the first scanned medium (col.34, lines 45-50).

It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified imaging device of Tsukamoto (129) by providing the teaching of Momose (129), as discussed above for the purpose of providing a compact, low cost, information reading apparatus for recording media processing with improved operability, col.3, lines 14-19, as suggested by Momose (129).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited references to show other saner/ printers with U-shaped transportation paths and other examples of a printer with two intersecting transportation paths.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 571-272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on 571-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number:
10/759,868
Art Unit: 2625

Page 13

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Negussie Worku
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

November 30, 2007